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R E P O R T

OF THE

FINANCE COMMITTEE,

ON THE

MEMORIAL OF CITIZENS OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN,

FOR A MONUMENT TO THE MEMORY OF

GEN. ISAAC P. RODMAN.

PROVIDENCE:

ALFRED ANTHONY, PRINTER TO THE STATE.

1864

R E P O R T .

The finance committee, upon the memorial of Stephen C. Fiske, Sylvester Robinson and others, for the erection of a monument over the grave of Brigadier General Isaac P. Rodman, most respectfully report :

That they have given most earnest attention to the subject, and confess that the impulses of their hearts would be most gratified by recommending Legislative action in responsive harmony with said memorial ; but while their gratitude prompts the indulgence of all reasonable requests, in honoring the patriotic, the brave and departed hero, they are constrained to remember that Rhode Island owes a debt of gratitude to a long list of her gallant sons, who have laid their lives upon the altar of our country, in the time of her extreme need.

The first outcropping of sedition, conspiracy and treason the firing upon and capturing a national fort, was met by Rhode Island with the most solemn pledges that the last man and the last dollar should be forthcoming, if need be, in crushing so foul and atrocious a Rebellion.

Many a sanguinary field attests to the fidelity with which this pledge has been kept. The battle of Bull Run, the gory fields of Antietam, of Fredericksburg, and of Gettysburg, attest to the undaunted bravery and self-sacrifice of Rhode Island's sons.

The records of our Adjutant General furnish a long list of illustrious names, to wit, Slocum, Ballou, Tower, Prescott, Smith, Curtis, Ives, Babbitt, Sayles, Brown, Milne, Kelly, Sherman, Bates, Carr, Carpenter, Bartholomew, Manton, Tillinghast, Gladding, Prouty, Pierce, Taylor, Sawyer, Ainsworth, Gove, Chedel, Nicholai, Hopkins, Briggs, Pendleton, Holbrook, Searkis, A. L. Smith, Kellen, the indomitable, Stevens, and finally the heroic Rodman, foremost in the fight.



These names are too fresh in our memories to be recalled without deep emotion. Of the rank and file, who have fallen, the list is too long to be recounted here, but the future historian of this fratricidal war, will find many instances of heroic daring, and steady, persistent courage, that cannot be surpassed, if they can be paralled in any war.

Rhode Island owes them a debt of gratitude that she can never fully repay. Testimonials they should have. All that granite and marble, bronze and gold can do to perpetuate the memory of their patriotism, heroism and self-sacrifice, should be done; done not only in high appreciation of their priceless offerings, but as an incitement to patriotic duty to young men of coming time.

It may be that other names will be added to the list before the armies of this wicked rebellion shall be crushed; but when this is done, your committee recommend that a monument, becoming the affluence of the State, and the memory of her illustrious heroes in this war with the rebels, be speedily erected; that the site for the same be some central and prominent spot, where citizens can most often behold it, and where the rising generation can read the names of their benefactors, catch their spirit, and ponder upon the priceless legacy of freedom bequeathed to them by their valor.

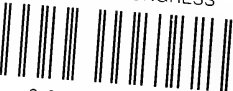
Let not this Honorable Senate, by any hasty, diffusive action, divert the people from the single purpose now in hand—the overthrow of the rebellion and the preservation of this Union.

A liberal appropriation has just been made by this General Assembly, to gather all the materials necessary for the future historian of these times and this war. Our heroes shall not be forgotten. With the return of peace, a noble monument shall be erected, and through all time the blessings of Constitutional Liberty and of universal freedom shall be perpetuated.

WILLIAM GROSVENOR,
ALLEN C. MATHEWSON,
SAMUEL W. CHURCH,
THOMAS A. WHITMAN,
CHARLES W. HOWLAND, }

Committee.

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